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Abstract of Speech

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**SUBJECT: Soviet Scientific Policy**

During the past year the spectacular controversy between the USSR and Communist China has engrossed the attention of both the Free World and the International Communist movement. As a result of the Moscow Conference (November-December 1960) it appears to have been settled, at least for the time being, on a basis of general unity and cooperation between the two senior partners of the movement. Although international crises, provoked or exploited by the Communists will continue, it seems likely that internal developments in both countries will come to the fore. Economic problems, especially in agriculture, have assumed priority importance. It may be anticipated that scientific and technological research and development will also be given much more prominent treatment.

The Soviet Union proclaims that it is making an all-out drive in the "transition to Communism" from "socialism" which it has successfully "constructed." Essential to this process is the creation of a high "material base" which in turn is rooted in scientific and technological progress throughout the economy.

Soviet policy therefore accords the highest priority to scientific development. It is a direct concern of the members of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, some half of whom have had scientific or technological training and experience. In promoting a "mighty upsurge" of science a number of significant steps have been taken:

a. The listing and specification of 30 priority fields of science; these range through all the disciplines which we would acknowledge as being natural science but also include such fields as pedagogy, economic planning, and even what we would call the humanities.

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b. Reorganization and rationalization of the structure of academies and institutes within a single all-embracing national framework closely controlled by the party and integrated with both government and industry.

c. Powerful stimuli through education, propaganda, and social and material incentive applied to the whole population, especially youth, to join in the dynamic thrust of the scientific movement.

Building on the pyramid of compounding capital investment in the heavy and machine tool industries and in automation and computer applications, the rapid expansion of the Soviet industrial base will probably continue to interact with the dynamics of scientific research to achieve striking new successes. The impetus of this aggregate at this stage appears to exceed anything in the Free World, including the US. This is not to say that a free society is doomed to lose in such a competitive race with one which is regimented on a totalitarian basis. Nevertheless, unless new stimuli are successfully applied within our system, it seems probable that it will fall behind, relatively speaking, in many if not most fields of scientific endeavor within the next decade or two.

Less noticed areas of tremendous potential lie in the human or behavioral sciences ranging from cytology and genetics through psychology to pedagogy and social conditioning. In this field ambitious programs for applying the discipline of cybernetics have been launched; the progress already achieved in a few years, the high caliber of research personnel and the powerful support of the party suggest the prospect of a sputnik-like achievement which in turn could have profound impact on the creation of a "socialist humanism" as the key to the "transition to Communism."